



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Parliamentary Elections in Uzbekistan

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Paul W. Jones
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
December 16, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As noted by the delegation of the Netherlands on behalf of the EU, on December 26, Uzbekistan will hold its Parliamentary elections. The United States takes this opportunity to express its hope and expectation that these elections will be conducted in a free and transparent manner, consistent with OSCE commitments and with international democratic standards.

We also note with regret that no truly independent opposition candidates will be taking part in these elections, a development unfortunately calling into question whether the elections will be truly competitive.

But the United States is pleased that there are a number of OSCE/ODIHR long-term election observers currently on the ground in Uzbekistan and that they will be assessing the pre-election process. We hope that they will be able to conduct their activities without interference and in accordance with Uzbekistan's OSCE commitments. The United States looks forward to ODIHR's subsequent report.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.